

SWAC Meeting Minutes of September 7, 2011

In attendance: For DUSWM-Phil Harris

SWAC Chair Dan Locke, Vice Chair Peter Blood, Ellis Burruss, Karin Tome, Jim Racheff, Rich Terselic, Dave Heller, Harvey Alter, Bryan Malseed, Brian Sclar, Alderperson Shelley Aloï, Kevin Demosky

Guests: Steve Cassis, Sally Sorbello, Daniel Andrews, Dave Twigg

The meeting began at 6:30 PM. The meeting minutes for the August 3 and 17 meetings were approved without change.

The scheduled composting update was not presented for lack of news.

Dan, as Committee Chair, has been invited to meet with the Board of Commissioners (BOCC) to discuss SWAC accomplishments and planned activities. Dan will circulate a draft list for comments. He suggested BOCC may also have issues or expectations it wishes to communicate to SWAC.

Peter observed that it was an important activity on the part of SWAC to have provided input to staff on the SWMP revision-but that it would have helped had the Committee had more time to consider the proposed changes. Phil stated that staff found the inputs helpful.

BOCC is also interested in learning if SWAC is having problems in recruiting candidates to fill vacancies-of which there are three currently. The three current members whose terms are expiring (Ellis, Jim and Peter) will have to apply if they wish to continue on SWAC.

The revised Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) that is in process-once accepted-will apply until a new version is developed in 2017. A review of the plan now being developed would be due in two years to the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE.) Revisions can also be submitted at any time something important changes. Phil noted that work on the 2017 revision should begin within about 1-1/2 years.

Regarding the matters raised by Karin related to the draft Chapter 5 of the revised SWMP, Rich suggested that if she wishes to discuss some or all of them, she should prepare an issue paper summarizing the cogent points of concern.

Karin posed the question of the role of SWAC. Dan replied that it was stated in the Committee charter-which primarily involves reviewing proposed changes to the SWMP. She further asked, were SWAC to raise issues beyond the Plan, what would become of them? Dan and Phil answered that such issues could flow to the BOCC. Dan suggested that SWAC should compile a list of topics it would like to consider in future meetings. Harvey noted that with regard to changes that occur related to actions covered by the Plan, a distinction should be drawn between questions of fact versus planned actions.

Ellis introduced a discussion on his belief that a waste characterization study is needed for the County. He would like to have a residential level survey conducted. Phil noted that he relies on studies done on other communities with similar demographics and that the residential level is not the one where the greatest potential exists for increasing recycling....commercial is. Harvey noted that the State-level committee is discussing how to calculate recycling rates.

Department Update

Phil reported the upcoming events:

- * 9/10-Hosting a booth at the "In The Streets Events"
 - * 9/2-21-Hosting a booth at the "Great Frederick Fair"
 - * 10/12-deadline for submission of entries to the business recycling initiative contest
 - * 10/15-Sponsoring a free seminar for businesses regarding recycling (including haulers)
 - * 10/19-deadline for submission of recycling videos for the contest.
 - * 10/22-Household Waste Recycling event at the public service facility
 - * 11/10-Issuance of a proclamation on "National Recycling Day."
- (Harvey suggested connecting this to announcement re: establishment of the County "Keep America Beautiful" (KAB) program.)

Ellis suggested addition of the booth that will be set up at the "Brunswick Railroad Days" event, as well as the upcoming "Bone Yard" event.

Shelly added that Phil's department continues to work with the City of Frederick on their less frequent trash pickup program, as well as a residential trash contents study.

New Business

Harvey presented a brief summary of topics being considered by the State-level solid waste committee on which he is participating.

Dave mentioned the BOCC proposal to offer a discount to municipalities that would bring their trash to the new WTE facility in the evening . This would cut down on daytime traffic on Route 85. Phil noted that at present they pay the full prevailing rate and that they could use the savings to support local recycling initiatives.

Karin expressed concern over the tone of remarks included in the email exchange regarding the need for a second special meeting to discuss the draft of Chapter 5 of the SWMP.

Guest Comments

Steve Cassis questioned his belief in lack of congruence between the BOCC action regarding “on farm only” use of composted food material and the proposal by the Sustainability Commission.

Daniel Andrews reported that a citizen group will conduct a recycling operation at the upcoming “Maryland Wine Festival.”

Dave Twigg expressed concern over the proposal to have municipalities deliver trash in the evening to the new WTE and suggested SWAC become involved. Phil suggested that the best way to express concern would be for Dave to do so during the open forum section of a BOCC meeting and that his department had not been involved in development of the proposal.

The next SWAC meeting will be October 5.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

